

## **Attachment 9. Program Preferences**

Each of the three projects support and contribute to several state water program initiatives and preferences.

### **Project #1 SPUD**

The Springville Public Utility District Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project will contribute to several State identified program preferences. According to the DWR 2012 guidelines, PRC §75026(b) and CWC §10544, preference will be given to proposals that address several different criteria. The SPUD Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Study will address several identified preferences. Completing biological, hydrological, water quality, historical, and other studies outlined in Phase I will ensure the successful contribution to several statewide identified priorities.

- This project would effectively contribute to the resolution of significant water-related conflicts within a region
  - It will do this by providing the necessary information to resolve the Cease and Desist order that the region is facing. The studies proposed in Phase I would provide necessary baseline biological, ecological, water quality and flow, and relevant historical data for the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Phase I of this project effectively integrates the water management projects within a hydrologic region identified by the RWQCB.
- Phase I would provide the necessary baseline information about water quality to enable regional decision makers to address critical water quality supply to a DAC.
- These studies will also be of use to the region for integrating water management into regional land use planning. The town of Springville would be able to assess the opportunities for additional wastewater connections in making future land use and development decisions.

In addition to contributing to the aforementioned program preferences, the SPUD Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project would also address several Statewide Priorities as identified in the DWR 2012 Proposition 84 guidelines. In particular, this project would contribute to:

- Drought Preparedness

- This project will provide up to 112 acre feet of tertiary treated water that will contribute to the available surface and ground water supplies of the region, effectively contributing available water for drier years.
- Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently
  - By treating water in one fully qualified facility, this project will contribute to the more efficient use of water by disabling water usage at individual properties and centralizing the efficient use of water for treatment at one facility.
- Climate Change Response Actions
  - The SPUD Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project will reduce energy and materials use through the centralization of wastewater treatment facilities and by disabling individual septic systems. This also enables the region to use water resources more efficiently (see above).
- Expand Environmental Stewardship
  - This project will help to improve the water quality that is released to the Tule River. This will effectively enhance the environment, watershed, and in stream functions of the Tule River.
- Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality
  - This project is fundamentally designed to improve water quality for a DAC region. This will also contribute safeguarding public and environmental health and to provide water supplies for other beneficial uses.

## **Project #2 Long Meadow Restoration Project**

This project provides multiple benefits including, water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of in stream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge. The Long Meadow Project also contributes to several Statewide Priorities as identified in the 2012 DWR Proposition 84 guidelines:

- Climate Change Response Actions
  - The Long Meadow Restoration Project will help to contribute to climate change response actions by enhancing meadow function and stabilizing a local ecosystem and water source. This will provide climate change mitigating benefits including

the stabilization of seasonal water and stormwater flows and contribute to regional ecological stability.

- Expand Environmental Stewardship
  - This project will expand and improve environmental stewardship by improving watersheds, in stream function, and by sustaining the natural systems that manage water levels and flood water.
- Practice Integrated Flood Management
  - The Long Meadow Project contributes to the restoration of a meadow ecosystem that plays a key role in flood management. This provides improved flood protection.
- Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality
  - Water Quality will be protected by reducing sedimentation from erosion and provide increased meadow habitat for filtration and purification. This will help protect the surface water of Long Meadow Creek and the Kern River and enhance the groundwater quality of the meadow.
- Drought Preparedness
  - Stopping the active erosion along the gully and stopping the headcut will reduce excess sediment from being deposited into Long Meadow, Long Meadow Creek, and further downstream to the Wild and Scenic Kern River. Using the Plug and Pond method, the water table in the meadow is expected to raise increasing water storage and capacity. This, in turn, will increase the duration of flow throughout the drier summer months and help to provide stabilization in times of drought.

### **Project #3 Mill Creek Project**

The Mill Flat Creek Project would contribute to several local and statewide programs. Locally, this project would contribute to the FY2011 Transition Watershed Restoration Action Plan, and the national WCATT program. This will also contribute to program preferences identified in the DWR 2012 Proposition 84 guidelines. The project would support these various program preferences by providing multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of in-stream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge.

- Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) region or subdivision; or other region or sub-region specifically identified by DWR
  - This project will tie together the water management programs of the U.S. Forest Service with the goals of the Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group, effectively establishing integrated regional water management programs.
- Effectively integrate water management with land use planning
  - This project is directly removing roads and reducing impervious surface that will combine this integrated water management with regional land use planning.

The Mill Flat Creek Road Decommissioning project will also address several statewide priorities:

- Climate Change response actions
  - Reducing impervious surface cover creates enhanced habitat for water filtration and storage which stabilizes surface storm water flows, which are expected with climate change.
- Expand environmental stewardship
  - This project will expand the environment in the Mill Flat Creek region Critical Aquatic Refuge by enhancing the critical habitat for several species. It is also expanding environmental stewardship by providing additional ecosystem and aquatic benefits.
- Practice integrated flood management
  - Removing the roads in this connected region is contributing to flood reduction by allowing for more natural water retention and storage. This delays the time that stormwater takes to runoff and flow downstream which provides integrated flood management benefits for the Forest Service and downstream communities.
- Protect Surface Water and groundwater quality
  - Both surface and ground water quality will be enhanced by removing non-point sources of pollution through road removal. Water quality will also be enhanced by the improved ecological functioning of the Critical Aquatic Refuge in Mill Flat Creek.